

## Nike Elementary

Nike Elementary is a rural school located in Catawissa, Missouri which is in Franklin County. The school was built in 1990 and was formally a missile base for the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Nike's motto is *"Putting Character and Education into the Community"*, which was created after interviewing the students, parents, classified, and certified staff. It was evident that the learning community wanted our students to achieve at high levels and have strong character when they leave out school. From the motto grew our school's mission: *Nike parents, staff, and community will work as a team to provide a safe, supportive, and nurturing learning environment in which children grow socially, emotionally, and cognitively to become life long learners and responsible citizens.* It is evident that the entire community takes ownership in this mission with the continued growth of our school's Parent Teacher Organization growing over the past two school years. Parent sponsored events; such as the Talent Show, monthly raffles, family events, and fundraisers correspond with the school's building goals of academics and character. Nike Elementary's vision for our students is to become effective educators to provide a safe, secure, positive, caring unit to educate responsible citizens by working together as a unit to achieve common goals, listening to our learning community and responding as needed, gain adequate staffing for optimal achievement, involve caregivers in a volunteer program, hold high academic expectations, involve staff in professional enrichment opportunities, and build a thriving community that maintains their focus on the children's best interest.

Enrollment for the 2006-2007 school year is one hundred fifty five students and twenty eight staff members. During the 2005-2006 school year, the average daily attendance was 95.10%, which is up from the 2004-2005 school year. Thirty-four percent of the student population receives free and reduced breakfast/lunches. Fifty percent of the Nike Elementary staff has advanced degrees and the average years of teaching experience is 14.6 years.

A few highlights of our school would include the awarded Mobil Educational Grant for literature sets and the state and federal School Age Child Care Grants for four consecutive years for our on site before/after care program. Annual community service projects created by Nike students, annual evening reading, science, math, and Missouri history events for students and their families are part of the school culture. The Nike Knight Volunteer Program for parents and grandparents to assist students in the classroom has been effective for our learners. The school wide class meetings promote democratic values in the classroom and support a positive school climate.

Despite the declining enrollment over the past four years, the school community continues to be devoted to our students and parents. Teachers and staff display fidelity in our school's mission, vision, and goals for the Nike Elementary learning community. The learning community takes an active approach to professional development and curriculum revision for student success. Our school has been the host to many pilot programs for the Meramec Valley R-3 School District and continues to move toward being a highly effective school in the twenty-first century.